

COMMON COUNCIL

Work Session

January 12, 1999

Mayor Robert Raphael presided at a work session of the Common Council held at 7 PM on January 12, 1999, at One Court Plaza.

Present:

Mayor Robert Raphael
Ald. Thomas Anderson
Ald. Patrick McNeil
Ald. Robert Rabinowitz
Ald. Jeffrey Thornton
Ald. Sharon Jeffer
Ald. Joseph Biviano

Also:

Attorney Joseph McBride
Director of Finance/City Clerk William Roberts
Human Resources Dir. Deborah DeForest
Fire Chief Gary Lynk
Police Chief Joseph Angelino
DPW Supt. Carl Ivarson
CD Director David Wagoner
Engineer James Suozzo
Asst. Fire Chief Leroy Burlingame
Deputy Clerk Donna Russell

The Place – Jack Salo from the Place addressed the Common Council relative to submitting a grant application on behalf of Chenango Place Products (CPP). He explained that CPP is a youth operated business initiated by the Place with the assistance of several community partners including the Norwich B.I.D., Chenango County Office of Employment & Training, DCMO B.O.C.E.S., Astoria Federal Savings Bank and the Follett Foundation. CPP retails a variety of locally produced products and souvenirs, and works cooperatively with tourism efforts to help promote the City of Norwich and Chenango County. Mr. Salo indicated that CPP would like to expand operations to a year round basis. He said the expansion would be located in leased space in the City of Norwich. Mr. Salo requested that the City consider applying for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding on behalf of the Place to allow the expansion of its youth and job efforts. The Place would prepare the application for submission in early February.

CD Director Wagoner explained if the grant is awarded, the City would subcontract the project to the Place and serve as the grant administrator. He said the City would receive a fee for monitoring the grant and noted it would require minimal time from his office. Ald. McNeil asked the amount of the grant application. Mr. Salo said the grant would be for \$200,000 for a two year program. Ald. Thornton asked if the City's ability to apply for other grants would be affected. Mr. Wagoner said that it would not. Ald. Anderson asked if there would be a conflict with the "Made in Chenango" group. Mr. Salo said there would not be conflict and noted the CPP would work with "Made in Chenango".

Ald. McNeil moved to place a resolution on the agenda authorizing the submission of the CDBG application providing the Council is furnished with a preliminary outline of the goals and objectives as well as a pro-forma financial of program costs. Seconded by Ald. Thornton and duly adopted, ayes all.

Update on Fire/Police Building Project – James Suozzo stated that he was present to answer any questions there may be, however, the financing is the issue for the evening and where the City wants to go with the project.

Director of Finance William Roberts summarized the project to date. Ald. Biviano asked what the estimated monthly impact to the average taxpayer would be. Mr. Roberts said on a taxpayer with a \$55,000 house the impact would be less than \$12 per month, based on the worst case of there being no grant money received. Mr. Roberts introduced David Allardice, the City's financial advisor. Mr. Allardice explained that the City would receive short term financing (bridge loan) in the form of a Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) while looking for grant funding. He noted that a BAN must be in place in order to obtain grant funds. He added that the City can invest the borrowed money at the same time.

Ald. Biviano asked that the Police and Fire Chiefs each make a statement and that a series of tours be set up to see the conditions of the Departments. Ald. Jeffer said she feels it is important that people see the conditions that their Police and Fire Department are operating under.

Ald. Anderson said he feels the Council needs to focus more on the building plan and questioned if the taxpayers are being best represented by the current plan. Ald. McNeil stated the plan as proposed will meet the needs of the departments for the next 60-70 years. Ald. Rabinowitz said he recommends the plan as proposed with the Police and Fire Departments located in two buildings.

James Williams, Norwich Volunteer Fire Department, stated the Department is very much in favor of doing its share to educate the public and make the project happen. He said the Fire Department recommends splitting the departments and noted with the Ontario Station and the Emergency Squad buildings no longer being used, the Fire Department would not be gaining a lot of space.

Ald. Anderson said he has been an advocate of one building. He feels the City needs a smaller, more effective government and views the two buildings as growth rather than a necessity. Ald. Anderson

said he would like to see a master plan for both the Fire and Police Departments. He questioned if the two building approach was more politically motivated rather than a needed item.

Regarding Fire Department “wants” versus “needs” Ald. McNeil stated that the “wants” are actually “needs” if the Fire Department is going to be able to maintain a volunteer department. Bob Handy, Norwich Volunteer Fire Department, stated Norwich is the only Fire Department that has a combination department with both paid and volunteers. He indicated there is a major problem with recruitment.

Police Chief Angelino gave a history of the Police Department with regard to housing . He stated that the housing situation at the Police Station is such that the service provided is being hindered. He addressed many concerns about the current station and noted others cannot be addressed due to security reasons. The Chief referred to the Department being housed in three separate buildings, one locker room for both male and female officers, lack of storage space, bursting heat pipes and water damage. He noted the physical layout of the building cause lapses in privacy and confidentiality as well as uninvolved citizens to be subjected to prisoners. The officers of the Norwich Police Department continue to work with what they have to provide service to those who need it. Chief Angelino said with regard to the proposed renovations to the Police Department, there are no “wants”, only “needs” and urged the Common Council to move forward with the building plans.

Fire Chief Lynk summarized the history of the Fire Department with regard to housing. He explained currently apparatus is housed in four buildings throughout the City, of which three are heated with old heating systems that are constantly breaking down. Chief Lynk added that training facilities are scattered throughout two buildings and on three floors as are offices and computers, making record keeping a challenge. He said the Fire Department does not have a meeting room large enough to hold all the members. Chief Lynk stated the proposed facility would make the Norwich Fire Department more efficient and hopefully attract or at least help retain qualified volunteer firefighters.

Ald. Rabinowitz stated that interest rates are down and it seems like an ideal time to commit to expenditures and moved that a resolution be placed on the agenda to authorize the bonding process. Seconded by Ald. Biviano and duly adopted, 4-2 (Ald. Anderson and Thornton).

Executive Session – Ald. Rabinowitz moved to go into executive session at 8:45 PM to discuss the employment history of a particular corporation. Seconded by Ald. McNeil and duly adopted, ayes all.

Ald. McNeil moved to go out of executive session at 9:40 PM. Seconded by Ald. Thornton and duly adopted, ayes all.

Development of Agenda for January 19, 1999

- 1) Call To Order
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Invocation
- 4) Approval of minutes of the regular meeting of December 15, 1998, the special meeting of December 22, 1998, the organizational meeting of January 4, 1999 and the work session of January 12, 1999.
- 5) Public Hearing
 - ♦ Prentice Street Extension Project SEQR
- 6) Open Forum
- 7) Bids
 - ♦ Filter Media
- 8) Correspondence
 - ♦
- 9) Department, Board and Commission Reports
 - ♦ Community Development/Planning monthly report for December, 1998
 - ♦ Fire Department/Codes monthly report for December, 1998
 - ♦ Historian monthly report for December, 1998 and annual report for 1998
 - ♦ Police Department monthly report for November, 1998
 - ♦ Records Management monthly report for December, 1998 and annual report for 1998
 - ♦ Youth Bureau monthly report for December, 1998
 - ♦ Electrical Board minutes of December 8, 1998
 - ♦ Parks Commission minutes of December 14, 1998
 - ♦ Planning Commission minutes of December 11, 1998
 - ♦ Plumbing Board minutes of December 17, 1998
 - ♦ Water Commission minutes of December 16, 1998
- 10) Ward and Committee Reports
 - ♦ Public Safety Committee meeting of December 22, 1998
 - ♦ Public Works Committee meeting of December 10, 1998
- 11) Old Business
- 12) New Business

Appointments – Youth Board

- ♦ Jeff Dunkleman, 11 Pleasant Street, re-appointment to a three year term expiring December 31, 2001
- ♦ John Williams, 38 Fair Street, re-appointment to a three year term expiring December 31, 2001

- ◆ Eileen Andrews, 99 Pleasant Street, re-appointment to a three year term expiring December 31, 2001

Motions

- ◆ Award of Bid - Filter Media
- ◆ Authorizing Delaware Engineering to go out to bid on the Prentice Street Project
- ◆ Authorizing Phase Two of the Year Compliance work
- ◆ Authorizing accelerated payments for volunteer share of Fire Contract revenues
- ◆ Set public hearing for February 16, 1999 relative to SEQR for Prentice Street Project

Resolutions

- ◆ Res - Award of Bid and Auth Transfer for Walk Behind Vibratory Roller
- ◆ Res - Declaring Excess Equipment Surplus and Authorizing Disposal
- ◆ Res - Auth Transfer for 1998 Street Programs
- ◆ Res - Auth Transfer from New York State Retirement for Employer Social Security Taxes
- ◆ Res - Extending Engagement with Dorfman-Robbie for Audit Services for 1998 and 1999
- ◆ Res - Authorizing Agreement for Spill Prevention Reports
- ◆ Res - Authorizing End of Year Budget Transfers for General Fund
- ◆ Res - Authorizing End of Year Budget Transfers for Water Fund
- ◆ Res - Authorizing End of Year Budget Transfers for Wastewater Fund

13) Payment of Bills

14) Adjournment

Clarification Relative to Proposed Motion – Ald. McNeil asked for a clarification relative the proposed motion regarding accelerated payments for volunteer share of Fire Contract revenues. The motion was clarified to reflect that the Town is not paying the volunteers, it is paying the City, and that the City would not advance funds before they are received.

Deletions

- ◆ Delete from Agenda Public Hearing - Prentice Street Extension Project SEQR, a public hearing will be set at the meeting.

Additions

- ◆ Mayoral appointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals – Brian Wessels, Birdsall Street, appointment as alternate member to the remainder of a three year term expiring December 31, 2000
- ◆ Norwich Fire Department – Appointment of Volunteer Firefighters to the Emergency Squad, Donald Moseley of Norwich and Bonita Scott of Norwich
- ◆ Resolution Establishing 1999 Non Unit Compensation Schedule
- ◆ Addition of Red Corsica to the Surplus Equipment list
- ◆ Resolutions Authorizing Bond Anticipation Notes for the Fire/Police Building Projects
- ◆ Resolution Authorizing Modification to the Ambulance Recovery Fee Program and Contract

Executive Session – Ald. Biviano moved to go into executive session at 9:45 PM relative to the personal history of a particular individual. Seconded by Ald. McNeil and duly adopted, ayes all.

Ald. Biviano moved to go out of executive session at 9:50 PM. Seconded by Ald. Jeffer and duly adopted, ayes all.

Adjournment – Ald. McNeil moved to adjourn at 9:50 PM. Seconded by Ald. Rabinowitz and duly adopted, ayes all.